DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.M. Ray DATE May 6, 1982
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October 3 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Sprague:

In April of 1956, we agreed to provide Libya with military equipment for an expansion of the Libyan Army by 1,000 men. Thus far, no equipment or uniforms have been delivered to the Libyans under this agreement. The main reason for this is the fact that we were unable to conclude the necessary Military Assistance Agreement with Libya until June 30, 1957, which was too late to make use of funds programmed in FY 57 (approximately $1.575 million) to fulfill our commitment to Libya. It has consequently been necessary to program funds from the FY 58 appropriations.

It is apparent from discussions which our Embassy has had recently with the Libyan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister that the Libyan Government attaches great importance to receiving United States equipment, including uniforms for the new Libyan recruits, as quickly as possible. I believe it essential at this particular time, when the Soviet Union is making strenuous efforts to extend its influence in the Middle East through offers of military and economic assistance, that we make every effort to procure and deliver to Libya as quickly as possible the military equipment and uniforms which in April 1956 we agreed to provide.

I would hope that arrangements could be made to ensure the arrival of these items in Libya by December 1, 1957, at the very latest. If delivery by that date does not seem practical under normal procedures, I would hope that faster means, such as air delivery, would be considered by the Department of Defense. I believe, however, that delivery should be accomplished with a minimum of publicity or fanfare.

I therefore

The Honorable
Mansfield D. Sprague,
Assistant Secretary of Defense.

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I therefore ask your personal assistance in expediting the delivery of military equipment and uniforms to the Libyan Government in fulfillment of our agreement of April 1956 to provide equipment for an expansion of the Libyan Army by 1,000 men. Such action would be in accordance with the President's Directive of August 26, 1957 regarding the acceleration of United States Military Assistance commitments to the Middle East countries in light of the Syrian situation.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Murphy
Deputy Under Secretary

NEA:AFN:AF:DSMak:sct:cgw 9/26/57
NEA - Mr. McClelland
September 26, 1957

Clearance: U/MSA - Mr. Barbes

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